

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2090

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2007

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION TO ST STUDENTS

Bhagora Shri Mahavir

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether obtaining at least 60 per cent marks has been made as an essential condition for grant of scholarships for higher education to Scheduled Tribes students;
- (b) if so, whether students studying on free seat only are eligible for the scholarship under the new rules;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has carried out any survey before deciding to implement the said rule; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) & (b) : Under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes, scholarships are to be given to all ST students studying at post matriculation or post secondary stage to enable them to complete their education, provided the income of parents/guardians from all sources does not exceed Rs. 1,08,000/- per annum. Further, in case of professional courses, the Post Matric Scholarship is available only to those students who are admitted against "free seats" (also known as Government seats or aided seats), whether in Government or private institutions; and in case of private institutions, where admission is on the basis of 12th standard examination marks, there is a bench mark of 60% for availing of the Post Matric Scholarship in case of professional courses.

(c) & (d) : No survey was carried out by this Ministry, however, the conditions relating to "free seats" and bench mark of 60% have been included in the Post Matric Scheme for Scholarships for STs following a decision of the Government to include these changes in a similar scheme of Post Matric Scholarships for SCs being implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.